(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Oleopine Resin, processing Gum Rosin, Turpentine and Camphor industry for last three years;

(b) the details of perfomrance reviewed by standard parameters;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from the industry, trade associations, and MP's about the crisis and critical position of domestic industry; and

(d) if so, the details of major problems highlighted and details of action taken thereon, particularly abolition of import duty on Oleopine resin which is in acute short supply and excise relief on Camphor widely used item by rural and urban poor for pooja purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No formal review of the performance of Oleopine Resin, processing Gum Rosin, Turpentine and Camphor industry for last three years has been undertaken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise in light of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Several representations have been received from trade associations and MP's seeking abolition of import duty on Oleopine Resin (OPR) on the grounds that domestic supply is not adequate. Representations have also been received for exempting Camphor from excise duty. While it was not found feasible to fully exempt OPR from import duty, the excise duty on camphor has been reduced from 18% to 16% with effect from 28.2.1999.

Finance Ministry's approval for setting up of Power Trading Corporation

1441. SHRI RAMJILAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has agreed for the setting up of Power Trading Corporation (PTC) by the Ministry of Power;

(b) if so, the source of its funding and liabilities in case SEBs do not pay on time or go in huge arrears as at present;

(c) whether it amounts to paying the independent power producer at the cost of exchequer;

(d) in what manner the PTC will recover its SEB overdues from the MOP/MOF and whether this issue has been discussed with the Finance Commission; and

(e) whether it will amount to creating another potentially sick unit and damange the health of exsiting units by draining out their investment for a foreign investor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Government, under the revised policy for the setting up of multi-state mega projects has decided to set up a Power Trading Corporation (PTC) which would purchase power from the identified mega projects in the private sector and sell it to the concerned beneficiary state.

(b) The PTC is proposed to be set up with majority equity holding by NTPC, Power Grid, PFC and some other financial institutions. The concerned State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEB), may also be co-opted if found feasible. Security to the PTC would be provided by means of a Letter of Credit and recourse to the State's share of Central Plan Allocations and other devolutions, in case of default.

(c) The PTC is committed to pay the developers of the mega projects for the power purchased and the beneficiary State/SEB will be similary committed to

the PTC. In the absence of this kind of a security arrangement, it will be difficult for any developer to take up the mega projects which are likely to be very low tariff projects due to the various concessions and conditionalities attached to them and no single State will be in a position to purchase the entire output.

(d) The position has already been clarified in reply to the above.

(e) No, Sir. Considering the security mechanism for these projects and also the fact that they are being linked to reforms, it is unlikely that the PTC would result in a potentially sick unit.

Cut on Plan and Non-Plan expenditure

1442. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cut imposed by Government on (i) Plan and (ii) Non-Plan expenditure during the year 1998-99;

(b) the main objectives behind imposing these cuts; and

(c) how far Government have been successful in achieving these objectives?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No cut was imposed on Plan expenditure during the year 1998-99. However, to effect economy in non-plan expenditure, a 10% cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure was imposed. The results achieved through such cuts have been reflected in the Revised Estimates of 1998-99 presented to the Parliament alongwith BE 1999-2000 on 27th February, 1999.

Cases referred to Debt Recovery Tribunals

1443. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) by Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank, Bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the amount of dues involved in these cases; and

(c) the number off cases disposed of and the amount of dues recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) A Statement showing the position of number of cases referred to Debts Recovery Tribunals by Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank during the years, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998, amount of dues involved in these cases, number of cases disposed off and amount of dues recovered is given below:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Indian Overseas Bank	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. of cases filed/transferred	13	101	76	99	401
Amount of dues involved	121.53	70.27	42.95	59.57	334.82
No. of cases disposed off	—	—	8	20	49
Amount of dues recovered	—	—	0.13	3.79	8.40